

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1009

By Bell

A RESOLUTION to celebrate March 17, 2020, as "Bring Your Pet to the Legislature Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, every pet owner knows that pets make the world a better place for people; and

WHEREAS, Mars Petcare, through its Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, has conducted numerous studies into the human-animal relationship and found that pets reduce the risk of heart disease, help people manage stress, promote healthy, active lifestyles, and help facilitate emotional connections between people; and

WHEREAS, pet ownership has benefits for communities, as pet owners are more likely to meet new people in their neighborhoods than non-pet owners, and people report feeling safer in their communities when there are more pets being walked; and

WHEREAS, employees at pet-friendly workplaces know that "pets work at work" – including pets in the workplace boosts morale, improves productivity and work-life balance, reduces stress, builds a sense of community, and increases productivity; and

WHEREAS, in a recent survey conducted by Mars Petcare, eighty-seven percent of employers said being dog friendly helps them retain and attract more talent, and fifty-nine percent of employees said they would choose an employer who is dog friendly over one who is not; and

WHEREAS, allowing legislators to bring their pets to work in the General Assembly will encourage other workplaces across Tennessee to implement pet-friendly programs; and

WHEREAS, Mars Petcare has made it its mission to make a "Better World for Pets" through helping pets find permanent, loving homes, providing food and health care for pets in

need, and helping create pet-friendly spaces to encourage the bond between humans and pets;
and

WHEREAS, since its launch in Nashville and Franklin in 2017, Mars Petcare's Better Cities for Pets Initiative has engaged hundreds of cities and invested more than \$1 million in grants and food donations to help create more pet-friendly communities; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Nashville's Civic Design Center, the Better Cities for Pets Initiative launched a new "Better City for Pets" certification in January 2019 to commend cities that recognize and elevate the benefits of life with pets by making significant strides toward pet-friendly standards; and

WHEREAS, as pet lovers and as a pet business, Mars Petcare Associates in each business unit – including Pet Nutrition, Royal Canin, Banfield, BluePearl, Pet Partners, and VCA Pet Hospitals – strive to make a "Better World for Pets" every day; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating "Take Your Pet to the Legislature Day," legislators may bring their pets to the State Capitol, encourage their constituents to patronize local pet-friendly businesses and restaurants, and work toward making their community more pet-friendly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with Mars Petcare as the company celebrates March 17, 2020, as "Bring Your Pet to the Legislature Day" in Tennessee and applaud its efforts to make a "Better World for Pets" and their owners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.